To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg JFK assassination appeals 3/9/79
Retired SA James P. Hosty, Jr.

Some time ago I appealed the withholding of the records of the investigation of Hosty's destruction of a note written to him and taken to the FBI Dallas FO by Lee Harvey Oswald. This flap, which I believe I also explained, was the subject of FBI testimony to a House subcommittee chaired by former SA Don Edwards in 1975, about November. All FBI records relating to this remain withheld. They were, for some reason not consistent with the hoopla accompanying the FBIHQ releases, not included in that.

Thereafter I wrote you or mentioned to you what I regarded as unusual, SA Hosty's public comments relating to the House committee on assassinations. The occasions on which an FBI SA makes public comment are rare, and comments on the controversial are more so.

A recent news clipping relating to a non-story coming from Hosty that received wide attention is in longer form in my today's mail and I attach a copy. This story is my source on his retirement.

It refers, however, to Hosty's "bombshell" comments while he was still an SA and relating to what he allegedly would drop on the assassins committee, in the context of depending on what it reports and whether or not he agrees with it.

Sufficient until that evil is the day thereof, if ever it comes.

This makes much more relevant withholdings that I've already appealed. One has to do with the reclassification to TOP SECRET and withholding of an 11/23/63 teletype and related records. This is essentially political information and Hosty is talking the opposite political side, inferentially as a threat, of political questions involved in the assassination investigation. (For this added reason I regard his going public and total Bureau silence about it as quite exceptional, particularly because he then was still an SA.)

Hosty is as entitled to his extreme-right views as are the friend he had who is my friend and has the same views. However, because this began when he was an SA and thus at the least suggests more FBI Cointelproing with a vulnerable employee as its point man, and because this again involves use of FOIA for political purposes, I draw this to your attention. If I am correct this is very wrong and a misuse of FOIA and its exemptions.

There now is little time before the committee reports and Hosty has a chance to sound off along the line he took while still an SA. Meaning politically.

I was aware of this non-story of the threat against Oswald from checking by a reporter when he received the wire copy. None of it is new and Hosty and the FBI knew this was not new, so there are again questions as above. It was all gone into in Warren Commission testimony. My own fairly detailed initial reporting of it was completed before mid-February 1965. Before the end of 1966 I added, including in facsimile, the FBI's non-investigation of how the Dallas police managed not to speak to their chief about this threat.

If it does not appear to be probable that there can or will be any action on these old appeals prior to the coming propaganda, I will have made this record with this additional appeal

Harold